

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04070 120931Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1550

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS DAKAR 4070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SG

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS VISIT TO SENEGAL

REF: A) STATE 139350; B) DAKAR 3887

SUMMARY: DURING BRIEF VISIT TO SENEGAL CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS (CBC) DELEGATION MET WITH SENEGALESE LEADERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER DIOUF, AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT KARIM GAYE. END SUMMARY

1. CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS DELEGATION (CBC) INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN CHARLES RANGEL, RALPH METCALFE, AND WILLIAM CLAY AND PHELPS-STOKES FUND PRESIDENT AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN WILLIAMS ARRIVED SENEGAL EARLY MORNING JULY 3. THREE CONGRESSMEN DEPARTED JULY 4; AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS AND JOURNALISTS WHO MADE UP REMAINDER OF 14 MEMBER DELEGATION STAYED UNTIL EARLY MORNING JULY 7. CBC GROUP ARRIVED IN DAKAR MORNING JULY 3 WITH CODEL DIGGS. TOGETHER TWO DELEGATIONS ATTENDED JULY 3 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND DINNER GIVEN BY GOS THAT EVENING AT WHICH PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND COIAL COUNCIL, AMADOU KARIM GAYE, WA HOST.

2. DETAILS OF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF REPORTED REFTEL B. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SENEGALESE GRATITUDE FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE. CODEL AND CBC NOTED THEIR DESIRE LEARN MORE ABOUT AFRICA SO THAT THEY COULD CONVERT THEIR EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO AFRICA INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION. MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GIVEN FULL MEDIA ATTENTION INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN DAILY LE SOLEIL.

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3. CONGRESSMEN RANGEL, METCALFE AND CLAY DEPARTED JULY 4 TOO EARLY TO ATTEND AMBASSADOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION BUT REMAINDER OF CBC GROUP ATTENDED AND MET WIDE SPECTRUM OF GOS OFFICIALS AND OTHER DAKAR RESIDENTS. CBC DELEGATION MEMBERS ATTENDED AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC ON JULY 5. GROUP HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES WHILE IN DAKAR. ALTHOUGH GROUP EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR NO FORMAL BRIEFINGS, EACH VISITOR WAS PROVIDED A BRIEFING BOOK DESCRIBING U.S. PROGRAMS IN SENEGAL AND WHEN REQUESTED, EACH VISITOR WAS BRIEFED INFORMALLY BY HIS ESCORT OFFICER.

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